

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A playback apparatus comprising:

a playback unit operable to play back a digital stream recorded on a recording medium to enable a playback image on a display screen;

a judging unit operable to judge whether there is a playback control that becomes
5 enabled or disabled, when a current playback point in a playback timeline of the digital stream reaches a predetermined point; and

a transmission unit operable to, when ~~a result of the judging is affirmative~~ the playback control is available, transmit information relating to the playback control to ~~[[an]] a~~
user control operation device for controlling the playback apparatus,

10 wherein the operation device includes a display unit,

wherein the transmission unit causes the operation device to use the transmitted
information to display information about whether the playback control is enabled or disabled is
displayed on the ~~operation device in accordance with the transmitted information~~ display unit.

2. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transmitted information is composite display information for composing an interactive display in which a plurality of buttons are arranged,

each of the buttons corresponds to a different one of a plurality of playback
5 controls, and

whether each of the playback controls is enabled or disabled is represented by
setting a button corresponding to an enabled playback control to an available state, and setting a
button corresponding to a disabled playback control to an unavailable state.

3. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein
the composite display information includes pieces of event information each
corresponding to a different one of the buttons, and

each piece of event information indicates an event to be outputted from the
5 operation device upon an operation of the corresponding button by a user.

4. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising:
a memory that holds pieces of the composite display information in advance,
wherein

each piece of the composite display information includes a piece of effective
5 section information specifying an effective playback section during which the interactive display
is effective, the effective playback section being one of a plurality of playback sections in the
digital stream,

the predetermined point is at a head of one of the playback sections, and
the judging is performed by searching the memory for a piece of effective section
10 information indicating the playback section in which the predetermined point is located.

5. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the composite
display information is either

(i) read from the recording medium, upon loading of the recording medium,
into a memory provided in the playback apparatus, or

5 (ii) downloaded from a server apparatus on a network to the memory.

6. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium is recorded with pieces of playback section information each specifying a different one of a plurality of playback sections,

each piece of playback section information includes a flag indicating whether a
5 playback control is enabled or disabled in the corresponding playback section,

the predetermined point is at a head of one of the playback sections, and

the judging is performed by referring to the flag in a piece of playback section information corresponding to the playback section in which the predetermined point is located.

7. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein

the playback control is angle change,

the flag indicates whether a request for the angle change is masked,

the each piece of playback section information further includes another flag
5 indicating whether the corresponding playback section is multi-angle, and the judging is performed by taking a logical sum of the two flags.

8. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the playback control is skip play,

the flag indicates whether a request for the skip play is masked.

9. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the playback control is one of fast-forward and fast-rewind, the flag indicates whether a request for the one of fast-forward and fast-rewind is masked.

10. (Original) A playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined point is a point where an interactive control segment exists in the digital stream,

the judgment is performed by taking a logical sum of a flag in the interactive control segment corresponding to the current playback point and a flag in a piece of playback section information that has been read into the playback apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A system integrated circuit mountable in a playback apparatus that plays back a digital stream recorded on a recording medium, the system integrated circuit comprising:

a judging unit operable to judge whether there is a playback control that becomes enabled or disabled, when a current playback point of the digital stream reaches a predetermined point in a playback timeline; and

a transmission unit operable to, when ~~a result of the judging is affirmative~~ the playback control is available, transmit information relating to the playback control to ~~[[an]]~~ a user control operation device,

wherein ~~the operation devices includes~~ a display unit,

~~wherein the transmission unit causes the operation device to display information about whether the playback control is enabled or disabled is displayed on the operation device~~ display unit.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A non-transitory recording medium on which a program is recorded, the program that causes~~ causing a computer to perform a playback operation, ~~the program having the computer execute comprising~~ steps of:

playing back a digital stream recorded on a recording medium;

5 judging whether there is a playback control that becomes enabled or disabled,
when a current playback point of the digital stream reaches a predetermined point in a playback
timeline; and

~~when a result of the judging is affirmative~~ the playback control is available,
transmitting information relating to the playback control to ~~[[an]]~~ a user control operation
10 device, ~~wherein~~

and then displaying information about whether the playback control is enabled or
disabled ~~is displayed~~ on a display unit included in the operation device.

13. (Currently Amended) A playback method comprising steps of:

 playing back a digital stream recorded on a recording medium by a playback
apparatus;

 judging by the playback apparatus whether there is a playback control that
5 becomes enabled or disabled, when a current playback point of the digital stream reaches a
predetermined point in a playback timeline; and

~~when a result of the judging is affirmative~~ the playback control is available,
transmitting information relating to the playback control from the playback apparatus to ~~[[an]]~~ a
user control operation device, ~~wherein~~ and then displaying information about whether the
10 playback control is enabled or disabled ~~is displayed~~ on a display unit included in the operation
device.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A non-transitory information recording medium
recorded ~~[[with]]~~ thereon a digital stream, and composite display information for ~~composing~~ a

playback apparatus to compose an interactive display having a plurality of buttons arranged thereon, the composite display information comprising:

5 effective section information specifying an effective playback section during which the interactive display is effective, the effective playback section being one of a plurality of playback sections in the digital stream; and

 button information indicating the buttons each corresponds to a different one of a plurality of playback controls,

10 wherein a user control operating device includes a display unit,

wherein the playback apparatus causes the operating device to display information about whether each of the playback controls is enabled or disabled ~~is represented~~ on the display unit by setting a button corresponding to an enabled playback control to an available state, and setting a button corresponding to a disabled playback control to an unavailable state.